

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of setting up a call matching a predetermined set of requested services and/or characteristics over a network which may optionally be a composite and multi-component network, the method ~~being characterized in that it consists comprising:~~
in-subdividing said network into a plurality of domains (D1 to DM), with a negotiator unit (Ni) being associated with each domain (Di); in
sending to at least one negotiator unit (Ni) a request for setting up a call together with a set of parameters defining the services and/or characteristics associated with the call to be set up;
said at least one negotiator unit contacting resources of its domain and contacting negotiator units of other domains requesting available resources in said other domains;
determining and selecting resources, from the resources of said at least one negotiator unit domain and the resources provided by the negotiator units of said other domains, that provide best possible match with said set of services and/or characteristics; and,
~~where appropriate, in setting up said call using said determined and selected resources after determining appropriate available resources (Ri) in the various domains (Di) concerned and selecting those resources (Ri) that provide the best possible match with said set of services and/or characteristics.~~

2. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein each negotiator unit (N_i) is in communication ~~firstly~~ with:

the various resources (R_i) of a respective domain and service providers in the respective domain (D_i) under consideration, whether connected directly or indirectly to said network or forming portions thereof, and ~~secondly~~ with

the negotiator units (N_1 to N_{i-1} and N_{i+1} to N_M) of the other domains (D_1 to D_{i-1} and D_{i+1} to D_M), where each negotiator unit (N_i) ~~evaluating~~ evaluates, ~~selecting~~ selects, and reserving reserves, after reaching an agreement, the resources (R_i) and/or services available in the respective domain (D_i) ~~which is associated therewith and making it possible to contribute~~ in optimal manner to setting up the intended call in an optimal manner.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it consists~~ wherein ~~in sending~~

said set of requested services and/or characteristics are sent to the negotiator unit (N_i) of each domain (D_i) situated along ~~the or any possible transmission path for the call to be set up, or~~ having at least one resource (R_i) which might be involved in said call;

~~in determining via said negotiator units (N_i) and in each of the above-specified domains;~~ determine which resources (R_i) are available and suitable for contributing to setting up and implementing said call in full or partial compliance with the requested set of services and/or characteristics;

~~in collecting and evaluating~~ the information supplied by the addressed negotiator units
(~~N_i~~) is collected and evaluated; and
~~in setting up~~ the call is set up as a function of the results of said evaluation and after
reserving suitable resources (~~R_i~~) in the domains (~~D_i~~) concerned.

4. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein:~~
the set of services and/or characteristics requested for the call is set by the user (~~U₁~~) that
initiates the call, ~~and in that~~
the call setup request and the requests associated therewith are sent to the negotiator unit
(~~N_i~~) of the domain (~~D_i~~) in which the user issues the call request and the associated requests,
~~which and~~
the negotiator unit analyzes them the call request and the associated requests and
forwards the call request and the associated requests ~~them~~ to the negotiator units (~~N_i~~) that might
become involved in the set up of the call.

5. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~
resources (~~R_i~~) available in the ~~various other~~ domains (~~D_i~~) are selected from ~~the a~~ group formed
by: transmission network resources; computation and data processing resource; connection
resources; communications protocol resources; data and information playback resources;
database resources or analogous information storage resources; interfacing resources; and other
resources (~~R_i~~) depending on each of the negotiator units (~~N_i~~) under consideration.

6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the characteristics of the call to be set up are selected from ~~the~~ a group formed by ~~the~~ a destination (~~U2~~), ~~the~~ nature and ~~the~~ quality of the call, ~~the~~ duration of the call, ~~the~~ time at which the call is to be set up if it is to be set in a deferred time, and ~~the~~ maximum cost per unit time, ~~or the like~~.

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it consists~~ further comprising ~~in~~ weighting the various parameters that ~~making~~ make up the set of requested services and/or characteristics in terms of at least one of importance ~~or~~ and of preference.

8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~, if the negotiator unit (~~Ni~~) of the negotiator unit domain, in which or via which ~~the~~ a user (~~U1~~) that issued the call setup request is connected to the network, is not in a position to adequately satisfy ~~adequately~~ the services and/or characteristics requested by said user (~~U1~~), then ~~it~~ the negotiator unit submits to said user, for selection and agreement, one or more call setup options approximately satisfying the set of services and/or characteristics as initially requested, with this optionally taking place prior to reserving the resources (~~Ri~~) concerned or prior to confirming such reservation with the negotiator units (~~Ni~~) of the resources (~~Ri~~) or services concerned.

9. (currently amended): A composite communications network enabling a call to be set up matching a predefined set of services and/or characteristics required by the initiator of the call

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setup request, the network comprising: ~~being characterized in that said composite network is made up of~~

a plurality of domains,

wherein (D1 to DM) each of said plurality of domains ~~which~~ is associated with a corresponding negotiator unit ~~(Ni)~~,

wherein each of the negotiator unit units ~~being capable of communicating~~ communicates with: firstly with the

various communications and service resources ~~(Ri)~~ forming part of or connected to ~~the~~ a domain (Di) of the respective negotiator unit (Ni), and ~~secondly~~

~~with the negotiator units (N1 to Ni - 1 and Ni + 1 to NM) of the other domains (D1 to Di - 1 and Di + 1 to Dm) making up said composite network,~~

wherein said domains ~~(Di)~~ ~~being~~ are interconnected via appropriate interfaces.

10. (currently amended): A network according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each domain ~~(Di)~~ constitutes a structurally and/or logically unitary entity, ~~for example such as a homogenous network and the service providers connected thereto, and wherein the~~ associated negotiator unit ~~(Ni)~~ being formed by or forming part of ~~the~~ a server, or a similar managing computer unit, that controls or drives said unitary entity.

11. (currently amended): A network according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that it is constituted by the~~ further comprising an Internet, and wherein the network in that it implements the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 comprising:

sending to at least one negotiator unit a request for setting up a call together with a set of parameters defining the services and/or characteristics associated with the call to be set up;

said at least one negotiator unit contacting resources its domain and negotiator units of other domains requesting available resources in said other domains;

determining and selecting resources, from the resources of said at least one negotiator unit domain and the resources provided by the negotiator units of said other domains, that provide best possible match with said set of services and/or characteristics; and

setting up said call using said determined and selected resources; ~~on any request from a user (U1) of any one of its component domains (Di) in order to set up a call between said user and the desired destination(s) (U2) and/or to supply the requested service(s).~~

12. (currently amended): ~~An optionally mobile terminal, characterized by the fact that it forms forming a portion of the~~ a network according to claim 9.

13. (new): The network according to claim 10, wherein said unitary entity is a homogenous network having service providers connected thereto.